IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically updating inventory data in an inventory management system, the method comprising:

in a computer software application, requesting, using a user interface of the inventory management system, a plurality of inventory models from the inventory management system, the plurality of inventory models comprising default configuration data for telecommunications equipment in a central office in a telecommunications network, wherein the default configuration data comprises a cabling assignment for wiring between at least two pieces of central office equipment;

selecting, using the user interface of the inventory management system, at least one model from the plurality of requested inventory models;

generating, using the user interface of the inventory management system, an inventory update form for each of the plurality of inventory models in the software application program;

automatically populating each inventory update form with updated inventory data in the software application program, the updated inventory data comprising specific operating parameters for the inventoried equipment in the inventory management system; and

sending, using the user interface of the inventory management system, the updated inventory data from the software application program to the inventory management system.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining the status of the updated inventory data sent to the inventory management system; and

if the status of the updated inventory data id failed, then resending the updated inventory data to the inventory management system.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising updating the inventory management system with the updated inventory data.

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4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein updating the inventory management system with the updated inventory data comprises saving the updated inventory data in the inventory management system.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein requesting a plurality of inventory models from the inventory management system comprises:

automatically logging into the inventory management system;

retrieving the plurality of inventory models from a database in the inventory management system;

retrieving provisioning data for the inventoried equipment in the inventory management system from an external database, wherein the provisioning data comprises data for provisioning special service circuits, message trunks, and carrier circuits associated with the inventoried equipment in a telecommunications network; and

saving the plurality of the inventory models to a file.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the updated inventory data from the software application program to the inventory management system comprises:

sending the updated inventory data to an inventory management database;

logging into the inventory management system; and

sending the updated inventory data from the inventory management database to the inventory management system.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of inventory models comprise default configuration data for inventoried equipment in the inventory management system.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim_1, wherein the updated inventory data comprises

specific configuration data for inventoried equipment in the inventory management system.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising retrieving, from an external database, provisioning data for the inventoried equipment in the inventory management system.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer system for automatically updating inventory data, the computer system comprising:

a remote computer in the computer system for storing a database comprising inventory model data, the inventory model data comprising default configuration data for telecommunications equipment of a central office in a telecommunications network, wherein the default configuration data comprises a cabling assignment for wiring between at least two pieces of central office equipment;

a network interface;

a client computer, in communication with the remote computer over the network interface, the client computer comprising:

a memory device for storing a program file; and

a processor, functionally coupled to the memory device, the processor being responsive to computer-executable instructions contained in the program file, wherein the program file comprises a user interface for:

requesting the inventory model data from the database;

selecting one or more inventory models from the requested inventory model data;

generating an inventory update form from the one or more selected inventory

models;

automatically populating the inventory update form with the updated inventory data, the updated inventory data comprising specific operating parameters for the inventoried equipment in the inventory management system; and

storing the updated inventory data in the database.

11.   (Original) The computer system of claim 10, wherein the inventory model data comprises default configuration data for inventoried equipment stored in the database.

12.   (Original) The computer system of claim 10, further compromising retrieving, from an external database, provisioning data for the inventoried equipment in the inventory management system.

13.   (Currently Amended) A system for automatically updating inventory data in an inventory management database, the system comprising:

  a client computer;

  a remote computer;

  a network connection between the local computer and the remote computer allowing data transfer therebetween;

  wherein the remote computer comprises:

    an inventory management database for storing inventory model data, the plurality of inventory models comprising default configuration data for telecommunications equipment in a central office in a telecommunications network, wherein the default configuration data comprises a cabling assignment for wiring between at least two pieces of central office equipment;

    a software application program, residing on the remote computer, for automatically retrieving the inventory model data from the database;

  wherein the local computer comprises:

    a user interface for:

      requesting the software application program to retrieve the inventory model data from the inventory management database;

selecting at least one inventory model from the received inventory model data;

generating an inventory update form from the at least one selected inventory model;

automatically populating the inventory update form with the updated inventory data, the updated inventory data comprising specific operating parameters for the inventoried equipment in the inventory management system; and

sending the updated inventory data to the inventory management database.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the software application program is a screen scraper application program operative to intercept character-based data from a mainframe computer.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, which when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform the steps of:

requesting a plurality of inventory models from an inventory management system, the plurality of inventory models comprising default configuration data for telecommunications equipment in a central office in a telecommunications network, wherein the default configuration data comprises a cabling assignment for wiring between at least two pieces of central office equipment;

selecting at least one of the plurality of inventory models from the inventory management system;

generating an inventory update form for each of the selected inventory models;

automatically populating each inventory update form with updated inventory data, the updated inventory data comprising specific operating parameters for the inventoried equipment in the inventory management system;

sending the updated inventory data to the inventory management system'

updating the inventory management system with the updated inventory data; and

retrieving, from an external database, provisioning data for inventoried equipment in the inventory management system, wherein the provisioning data comprises data for provisioning at least one of special circuits, message trunks, and carrier circuits associated with the inventoried equipment in a telecommunications network.

16-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein requesting a plurality of inventory models from the inventory management system also comprises requesting at least one of an updated equipment code[[,]] and an updated equipment location, and updated cabling assignments for wiring between at least two pieces of central office equipment, in the central office.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 10, wherein the default configuration data for a central office also comprises at least one of an equipment code[[,]] and an equipment location, and cabling assignments for wiring between at least two pieces of central office equipment.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claims 15, wherein the default configuration data for a central office also comprises at least one of an equipment code[[,]] and an equipment location, and cabling assignments for wiring between at least two pieces of central office equipment.